

LETTERS TO DIGNITARIES AND PUBLICATIONS ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ISSUE AND THEIR RESPONSES (PART II)¹

ZAVEN MESSERLIAN

22.



Honorary Principal

February 28, 2020

The Rt. Honourable
Boris Johnson
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
10 Downing Street
London

Your Excellency,

Recently the U.S.A Senate and before it the House of Representatives recognized the Genocide of Armenians perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government during 1915-1923. The USA thus joined Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Vatican, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Russia and 15 other European, Middle Eastern and South American states, all of whom have recognized the Armenian Genocide.

Among the major states of the world the United Kingdom is singled out, among those who have not yet recognized the veracity of the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians.

In my opinion there are legal and moral reasons, as to why the United Kingdom should be among those states which have recognized the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians.

Legal reasons:

a) The Armenian genocide was termed as "Crimes against humanity" in 1915, in an Allied warning to the Ottoman government on May 24, 1915. This Allied warning and Article 230 of the Treaty of Sevres, constituted the legal basis of articles 6 (c) and 5 (c) of the Nuremberg and Tokyo charters for trying the World War II criminals (U.N. restricted document E/CN.E/W.20 and F.O. 371/72810).

b) The genocide perpetrated on the Armenians was exposed to the world, essentially by the British *Blue Book. The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire* (Miscellaneous No. 31. (1916).

¹ For the first part of this paper refer to Zaven Messerlian, "Letters to Dignitaries and Publications on the Armenian Genocide Issue and their Responses (Part I)", *Haigazian Armenological Review*, 42/1:2022, pp. 81-112.

The genocide was successful in that there are no Armenians left on the Armenian plateau, (now within Turkey) our ancestral homeland for three millenniums. The native Armenians were either massacred, starved to death, burnt alive, and deported. Former British Pr. Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, wrote: "In 1915, the Turkish government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous general massacre and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor ... the clearance of the race from Asia Minor was about as complete as such an act, on a scale so great, could well be ... There is no reasonable doubt that the crime was planned and executed for political reasons." (W. Churchill, *The World Crisis; The Aftermath*, (London, 1929), p. 405).

c) The Ottoman Turkish government officially promulgated the Deportation Law on May 26, 1915, after the massacres had already begun and continued after the above law. British intelligence found out from an Ottoman prisoner of war, Lt. Sayied Ahmed Moukhtar Ba'aj that "deportation" meant "massacre" (F.O. 371/2781/264888 Secret Arabian Report of the Foreign Office dated December 27, 1916). In a letter dated October 3, 1918 and addressed to Lord Bryce, Robert Cecil, British Assistant, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, wrote: "The Ottoman Armenians were systematically murdered by the Turkish Government in 1915. Two-thirds of the population were exterminated by the most cold blooded and fiendish methods ... "

d) The post-war Ottoman government set up the Mezher Parliamentary Committee to investigate the mass murder of Armenians and tried the Young Turkish leaders in the Imperial Military War Tribunal and condemned the chief perpetrators to death in absentia for the "premeditated mass murder" of Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire, and had 3 of their subordinates executed after their condemnations to death.

e) Even the ambassadors of the war time allies of the Ottoman Empire, Imperial Germany and the Austria-Hungarian Empire sent secret reports respectively to Berlin and Vienna clearly stating the terrible premeditated plan of the extermination of a subject people of the Ottoman Empire. Below is such a report by Ambassador Hohenlohe "The systematic butchery of the uprooted and deported Armenians have assumed such a scope ... It wasn't only tolerated but openly promoted by the government. It meant extermination of the Armenians" (Die Ausrottung der Armenier) *Turkei* 183/38. A 24507, 12 August 1915). The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador Pallavicini, informed Vienna, "The Armenian population which is being expelled from its homeland is not only being subjected to the greatest misery but also to a total extermination" (12 *Turkei*/209/, No. 50/P.C. 27 June 1915).

f) The Polish Jewish author Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term genocide and who is commonly regarded as the father of the Genocide Convention, in his writing frequently invoked the Armenian tragic experience as an example of genocide.

g) The Armenian Genocide's oblivion encouraged the next one, Adolph Hitler was definitely encouraged by the Armenian genocide's oblivion in committing the Holocaust. Hitler's phrase "After all who remembers today the extermination of Armenians" when he gave orders to annihilate countless innocents in Obersalzberg on August 21, 1939 is well documented. Within three days on 25 August 1939 a short account of the speech, smuggled out of the meeting, was transmitted to the British Embassy in Berlin

(*Documents of British Foreign Policy 1919-1939*, edited by E.L Woodward and Rohan Butler, Third Series, vol. VIII, 1939, (London 1954), p. 257-260).

h) The unofficial Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) on July 12, 2002 sought an objective and legal analysis regarding the Armenian Genocide from The International Center for Transitional Justice in New York. The Court concluded "Because the other three elements identified above (element of the Crime of Genocide, The Events as genocide within the meaning of the Convention, Genocidal intent) the Events viewed collectively, can thus be said to include all of the elements of the crime of genocide as defined in the Convention, and legal scholars as well as historians, politicians, journalist and other people would be justified in continuing to so describe".

Moral issues:

a) It was indeed on the eve of the British led Gallipoli campaign that on April 24, 1915, all the eminent and influential Armenian leaders residing in Constantinople including professors, lawyers, poets, journalists, medical doctors, clergymen, in short the intelligentsia of the Armenian community were arrested by the Ottoman Turkish authorities without any sound reason and sent to the interior of Anatolia, where they were massacred by the most atrocious means. The same procedure was repeated in the towns of the provinces. April 24 marks the commemorations day of 1.5 million Armenian martyrs.

b) The British failure at Gallipoli was detrimental to the Armenians, Lord Kinross, author of *Ataturk* and four books on Turkey, has written. "The British failure of Gallipoli gave a breathing space to the Young Turk triumvirate, leaving it free to pursue, without external interference, a premeditated internal policy of the final elimination of the Armenian race. Their proximity to the Russians on the Caucasian front furnished a convenient pretext for their persecution, on a scale far exceeding the atrocities of Abdul Hamid, through deportation and massacre." (Lord Kinross. *The Rise and Fall of the Turkish Empire*, New York, 1977, p. 607).

c) One of your predecessors Lloyd George, in his book *The Truth About the Peace Treaties*, London, 1938, pp. 1256-57 wrote.-

"Had it not been for our sinister intervention, the great majority of the Armenians would have been placed, by the Treaty of San Stefano in 1878, under the protection of the Russian flag ... The action of the British government led inevitably to the terrible massacres of 1895-1897, 1909 and worst of all to the holocausts of 1915."

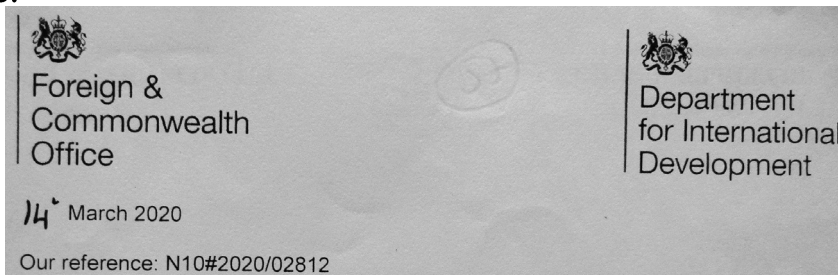
Your Excellency is a determined person, whose resolution was so well demonstrated in the Brexit issue, so I appeal to your goodself, as the nephew of an innocent genocide victim (my 14 years old maternal uncle, slaughtered on the knees of his grandmother in Smyrna, on September 9, 1922, just because he was an Armenian) to render the least justice. Your Excellency's family also suffered the loss of the much respected journalist politician Ali Kemal, who had condemned the Genocide of the Armenians, and thus was nicknamed by Turks as Artin Kemal and who was lynched by the Turkish mob and his corpse was then hanged.

All Armenians hope that the United Kingdom shall join those nations that have recognized the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians, as well as in the judgment of countless historians, human right advocates, international jurists, spiritual leaders, etc.

Yours respectfully,

Zaven M. Messerlian Hon. Ph.D.
Honorary Principal of the
Armenian Evangelical College
Foreign Member of the National
Academy of Sciences of the Republic
of Armenia

23.



Zaven Messerlian Hon. PhD
Armenian Evangelical College
P.O. Box 11-3672
Riad El Solh
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Lebanon
1107-2140

Dear Dr Messerlian

Thank you for your letter of 28 February to the Prime Minister about the massacre of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. I am replying as the Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas.

The events of 1915-23 were a tragic episode in the history of the Armenian people and they must never be forgotten. The British Government of the day condemned the massacres and this Government fully endorses that view.

The Government recognises the legal definition of genocide as set out in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which came into force in 1951. For this reason, the Government's longstanding policy is not to recognise events which occurred before the use of the term 'genocide' as such. The Government believes that any determination on whether genocide has occurred is a matter for competent judicial bodies, rather than for governments.

This position in no way downplays the immense suffering of Armenians during the late Ottoman Empire. The Government is strongly committed to deterring and preventing the most serious crimes of international concern, underlining that there must be no

impunity for perpetrators. We must never forget the past, but the Government's priority today is to promote reconciliation between the peoples and Governments of the two countries.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Morton MP

Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas

24.



Honorary principal

May 21, 2020

Your Ref. NIO# 2020/02812

H.E. Wendy Morton, MP

Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Department for International Development

London, U.K.

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter dated March 14, 2020, replying to my letter addressed to the Prime Minister, dated February 28, 2020.

You have made clear H.M. government's position on the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians during 1915-1923. I wish to record my dissent of this position based on the following grounds.

First, the argument that it is not correct to apply the word genocide to mass extermination which took place before the term itself existed, is not a valid one. The preamble of the 1948 convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, notes that "At all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity." Thus the term is being applied ex post facto.

I disagree H.M. government's above mentioned argument, as for example from the date before the word rape was coined, does it mean that rapes before that date were not rapes.

The creator of the term genocide Lemkin had the Armenian Genocide as an example in his writings.

Second, in 1985 UN Special Rapporteur Benjamin Whitaker's final report on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide for the United Nation's Commission on Human Rights - Sub commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in its paragraph 24 stated "The Nazi aberration has unfortunately not been the only case of genocide in the 20th century. Among other examples which can be cited as qualifying ... are the Ottoman massacre of Armenians in 1915-1916 ..." ([http:// www. preventgenocide.org/prevent/UN docs/whitaker/section](http://www.preventgenocide.org/prevent/UN_docs/whitaker/section)

2.htm). Whitaker's report was put to vote on August 29, 1985 and was adopted by a vote of 14, against one and four abstentions, as a United Nations document.

Third, in 1951 a key document filed by the USA government with the International Court of Justice stated, "The Genocide Convention resulted from the inhuman and barbarous practices which prevailed in certain countries prior to and during World War II ... The practice of genocide has occurred throughout human history ... the Turkish massacre of Armenians, the extermination of millions of Jews and Poles by the Nazis are outstanding examples of the crime of genocide."

Fourth, The International Center for Transitional Justice in New York, in a historic decision declared on July 12, 2002, that the Armenian massacres and deportations included "all the elements of the crime of genocide as defined in the Genocide Convention, and legal scholars as well as historians, politicians, journalists and other people would be justified in continuing to so describe". The U.S. sponsored Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) had sought their opinion.

To conclude reconciliation can not be established on injustice.

Yours sincerely,
Zaven M. Messerlian, Hon. Ph.D.
Honorary Principal of the
Armenian Evangelical College
Foreign Member of the
National Academy of Sciences
of the Republic of Armenia

25.

The president of Cyprus, Spyros Kyprianou was the first personality of his rank to denounce the Armenian Genocide in the United Nations in 1965. Over the years I had sent him my English language publications (article offprints or books) and had always received his replies, personally signed.

Encouraged by this I went one step further and wrote him a letter requesting the publication of a postage stamp commemorating the Armenian Genocide. I give below my letter and the reply sent on his behalf.

15 October 1986

His Excellency
Mr. Spyros Kyprianou
President of Cyprus
Presidential Palace
Nicosia - Cyprus

Your Excellency,

Encouraged by the fact that Your Excellency was the first personality ever to mention the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians in the United Nations General Assembly in 1965 and your continued interest in Armenian Affairs since then, we shall humbly submit a request to Your Excellency.

1987 is the 72nd anniversary of the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians by Turkey. Armenians all over the world will highly appreciate if the Republic of Cyprus marked this tragic anniversary by a postage stamp in its "Anniversaries and Events" series. Cyprus has also suffered from the Turks and your country's 1984 issue of two stamps marked "Ten Years of Violation of Human Rights in Cyprus by Turkey".

In June 1986 Uruguay issued a postage stamp commemorating the 71st anniversary of the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians.

Such a gesture of sympathy by the Republic of Cyprus will be highly appreciated. We are confident Your Excellency will examine our humble request in a positive manner.

Please accept our best regards.

Respectfully,
Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal

26.



Nicosia, 5th November, 1986.

Mr. Zaven M. Messerlian,
Principal,
Armenian Evangelical College,
P.O. Box 3672,
Beirut.
Dear Mr. Messerlian,

I have been asked by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 15th.

Your suggestion will be considered by the appropriate Authorities.

I convey to you the best wishes of the President.

Sincerely yours,

(Patroclos Stavrou)

Under-Secretary to the President.

27.

Further encouraged by the presidential responses I wrote him a letter dated April 20, 2001 (given below) after his election as Speaker of the Parliament of Cyprus.

April 20, 2001

H.E. Spyros Kipreanou
Speaker of the Parliament of Cyprus
Nicosia-Cyprus

Your Excellency,

We followed with great interest the news reports about your recent official visit to Armenia and the declarations you made.

Armenians all were the world remember that it was Your Excellency who mentioned the Armenian Genocide in the United Nations General Assembly 36 years ago.

Encouraged by your stand, we come forth with two proposals.

First, 2005 will mark the 90th anniversary of the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians by Turkey. Armenians all over the world will highly appreciate if the Republic of Cyprus marked this tragic Anniversary by a postage stamp, in its annual Anniversaries and Events series, as Cyprus did for the Armenian Earthquake victims. Cyprus has also suffered from Turks and your country has on a few occasions issued stamps marking the year of violation of Human Rights in Cyprus by Turkey or the infamous Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus. In June 1986 Uruguay was the first country to issue a stamp commemorating the 71st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Second, according to newspaper reports until now there is in Paphos a street called "Talaat Pasha Sokagi", in the Turkish quarter of the city (please see the enclosed report). If this Talaat pasha is the same as the Turkish Grand Vizier and Interior Minister of 1914-1918 who masterminded the Genocide of Armenians, in our opinion the street's name should be changed.

The release of a stamp commemorating the Armenian martyrs and the change of the name of the street will be gestures of sympathy by the Republic of Cyprus and shall be highly appreciated by Armenians all over the world. We are confident Your Excellency will examine our humble requests in a positive manner and influence the proper authorities in taking the necessary actions.

Please accept our best regards.

Respectfully,

Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal

I did not receive a reply from Speaker Kyprianou. Soon after Kyprianou ceased to be the Speaker of parliament. So I wrote a letter in early December 2001 to the Armenian Representative in the parliament of Cyprus, Bedros Kalaydjian, enclosing the copy of my letter to Kyprianou requesting him to raise

the issues therein if he considered it suitable, by pursuing the case personally as the Armenian Representative.

He did not reply, but on December 13, 2001 I received a telephone call from the ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Greece and Cyprus Armen Bedrossian. His call gave me the feeling that he felt the issues I had raised are within his authority. I gave him the necessary information.

On December 14, 2001 I wrote him the following handwritten letter in Armenian.

28.

ZAVEN M. MESSERLIAN, B. A., M. A. P. O. B. 129, BEIRUT - LEBANON

14 Դեկտեմբեր 2001

Մեծայարգ Տիար
Արմէն Պետրոսեան
Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան դեսպան
Յունաստանի եւ Կիպրոսի մօտ
Աթէնք

Յարգելի Պր. Դեսպան,

Շնորհակալ եմ Ձեր 13 Դեկտեմբերի հեռաձայնին համար: Պր. Քիփրիանովին գրած էի 20 Ապրիլ 2001ին երբ խորհրդարանի նախագահն էր: 1986ին ալ իրեն գրած էի երբ հանրապետութեան նախագահ էր եւ 20 օրեր վերջ պատասխան ստացած (երկու նամակներն ալ կը ներփակեմ): Այս անգամուն պատասխանը ուշանալուն կիպրահայոց երեսփոխան Պր. Պետրոս Գալայճեանին գրեցի որ իր յարմար դատած ձեւով Պր. Քիփրիանովի ուղղած նամակիս մէջի արծարծուած հարցերը առաջ տանի: Դուք ալ իբր Հ. Հ. դեսպան, ի հարկին Ձեր կարելին կ'ընէք:

Առ ի տեղեկութիւն ներփակած եմ ՄԱԿի 1973ի ցեղասպանութեան սկզբնական տեղեկագրի 30րդ պարբերութեան պատմութիւնը, ինչպէս նաեւ վերջերս լոյս տեսած գիրքս The Premeditated Nature of the Genocide Perpetrated on the Armenians.

Յօգուտ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան Ձեր աշխատանքներուն յաջողութեան լաւագոյն մաղթանքներով՝

Զաւէն Մարրլեան

29.

I received no reply to my letter to the Ambassador. However, the issues I had raised were resolved 15 to 20 years afterwards, independent of my letter.

First in 2015 on the centenary of the Armenian Genocide Cyprus issued a postage stamp depicting the building of the Melkonian Orphanage in Lefkosa, and underneath the inscription "In Remembrance 1915-1923, Cyprus-Armenia." It was odd to note that Cyprus which had issued stamps with an anti-Turkish content had avoided the word Genocide, although Cyprus had recognized the Armenian Genocide years ago.

Second, from a newspaper¹ report in 2021 I learnt that the Paphos town Council had unanimously decided to remove the Tala'at Pasha street name and call the street Justice road. It was strange to see it took 20 years to remove the name of the mastermind of the Armenian Genocide in friendly Cyprus.

30.

The European Court upon Turkish extremist leader Perinçek's case confirmed his freedom of speech. This decision could be protested within 3 months appealing to the superior court.

Armenia's Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Hranoush Hagopian in a public appeal asked Armenians to write to the European Human Rights Court and demand the reconsideration of the First Instance Court Decision.

On January 3, 2014 I wrote a letter to the European Human Rights Court and on January 24, 2014 to the Swiss Prime Minister and cabinet. The letters were almost identical with differences in the introduction. On January 9, 2014 I sent a copy of the first letter to the Minister of Diaspora Affairs in Yerevan. Below are given the letter to the European Court, the court's and Swiss Political Affairs Directory replies.

January 3, 2014

To the honourable judges of the
European Human Rights Court

We regretfully became aware that on December 17, 2013. the European Human Rights Court on the grounds of freedom of speech, exonerated Turkey's Labour Party Leader Dogu Pirincek, from his condemnation by the Swiss Lausanne court in 2007 for blatantly declaring "the' Armenian genocide is an international lie." Furthermore your court stated that the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians does not carry unanimity and that the Armenian Genocide should be differentiated from the universally accepted Jewish holocaust.

As an historian and the author of the prize awarded book *The Premeditated Nature of the Genocide Perpetrated on the Armenians* (which upon request I can send a copy to your esteemed court) I wish to enter my complaint.

It is true that the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians for political considerations is only recognized by 20 states (including Switzerland) but it is a well documented established fact. There can be no doubt about the Armenian Genocide as there can be no doubt about the Jewish holocaust.

300.000 Armenians were massacred in 1894-1896 which the *New York Times* in its issue of September 10, 1895 called "Another Armenian Holocaust." In 1909, 30.000 Armenians were massacred in Adana, and from 1915-1923 1.5 Armenians were annihilated in the first major genocide of the 20th century. British Prime Minister Lloyd George termed this, as "the holocaust of 1915."

¹ «Կիպրոս. Թախաթ փաշա պողոտան կը վերանուանուի արդարութեան փողոց», Baikar weekly, Boston, 24 January 2021, p. 10.

In Switzerland, in September-October 1915, 90 Swiss professors and academicians wrote an Appeal to stop the genocide, while "Journal de Geneve" wrote about "the extermination of a people" referring to the Armenians. Enclosed are the photocopies of both.

Although the freedom of speech is sacred, so is human life. As in the case of the Jewish holocaust negation is punishable by law, so it must be in the case of the Armenian Genocide based on the following reasons:

a) The Polish Jew author Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term genocide and who is commonly regarded as the father of the Genocide Convention, frequently invoked the Armenian experience as an example of genocide. *The History of the Holocaust*, a handbook and dictionary (ed. Abraham J. Edelheit and Hershel Edelheit, San Francisco, Oxford, 1994) clearly states "World War I also witnessed the first modern act of genocide" (p. 16), referring to the Armenian Genocide.

b) The Armenian Genocide's oblivion encouraged the next one. Adolph Hitler was definitely encouraged by the Armenian genocide's oblivion in committing the Holocaust. Hitler's phrase "After all who remembers today the extermination of Armenians" when he gave orders to annihilate countless innocents in Obersalzberg on August 21, 1939 is well documented. Within three days on 25 August 1939 a short account of the speech, smuggled out of the meeting, was transmitted to the British Embassy in Berlin (*Documents of British Foreign Policy 1919-1939*, edited by E.L. Woodward and Rohan Butler, Third Series, vol. VIII, 1939, (London 1954), p. 257-260). The same document was made public in the USA on 17 October 1942 and *The New York Times* reported the story and excerpts from the document on the following day.

c) The Armenian genocide was termed as "Crimes against humanity" in 1915, in an Allied warning to the Ottoman government on May 24, 1915. This Allied warning and Article 230 of the Treaty of Sevres, constituted the legal basis of articles 6 (c) and 5 (c) of the Nuremberg and Tokyo charters for trying the World War II criminals (see UN restricted document E/CN.E/W.20 and F.O. 371/72810).

d) The genocide perpetrated on the Armenians was exposed to the world, essentially by the British *Blue Book, The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire* (Miscellaneous No. 31, (1916). The genocide was successful in that there are no Armenians left on the Armenian plateau, our ancestral homeland for three millenniums. The native Armenians were either massacred, starved to death, burnt alive, and deported. Former British Pr. Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, wrote: "In 1915, the Turkish government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous general massacre and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor ... the clearance of the race from Asia Minor was about as complete as such an act, on a scale so great, could well be ... There is no reasonable doubt that the crime was planned and executed for political reasons." (W. Churchill, *The World Crisis; The Aftermath*, (London, 1929), p. 405).

e) The Ottoman Turkish government officially promulgated the Deportation Law on May 26, 1915, after the massacres had already begun and continued after the above law. British intelligence found out from an Ottoman prisoner of war, Lt. Sayied Ahmed Moukhtar Ba'aj that "deportation" meant "massacre" (F.O. 371/2781/264888 Secret Arabian Report of the Foreign Affairs dated December 27, 1916. In a letter dated October 3, 1918 and addressed to Lord Bryce, Robert Cecil, British Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, wrote: "The Ottoman Armenians were systematically

murdered by the Turkish Government in 1915. Two-thirds of the population were exterminated by the most cold blooded and fiendish methods ... "

During his most recent visit to Yerevan, capital of Armenia on December 13, 2013 the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs termed the deportations of Armenians within the Ottoman Empire as inhuman, in his press conference.

f) The post-war Ottoman government set up the Mezher Parliamentary Committee to investigate the mass murder of Armenians and tried the Young Turkish leaders in the Imperial Military War Tribunal and condemned the chief perpetrators to death in absentia for the "premeditated mass murder" of Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire, and had 3 of their subordinates executed after their condemnations to death.

g) Even the ambassadors of the war time allies of the Ottoman Empire, Imperial Germany and the Austria-Hungarian Empire sent secret reports respectively to Berlin and Vienna clearly stating the terrible premeditated plan of the extermination of a subject people of the Ottoman Empire. Below is such a report by Ambassador Hohenlohe "The systematic butchery of the uprooted and deported Armenians have assumed such a scope ... It wasn't only tolerated but openly promoted by the government. It meant the extermination of the Armenians" (Die Ausrottung der Armenier) *Turkei* 183/38. A 24507, 12 August 1915). The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador Pallavicini, informed Vienna, "The Armenian population which is being expelled from its homeland is not only being subjected to the greatest misery but also to a total extermination" (12 *Turkei*/209/, No. 50/P.C. 27 June 1915).

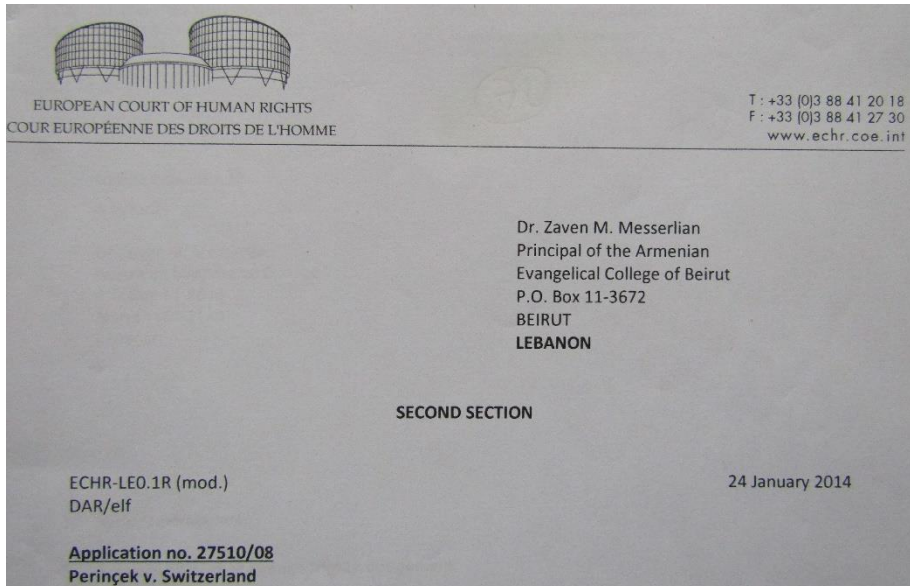
h) The unofficial Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) on July 12, 2002 sought an objective and legal analysis regarding the Armenian Genocide from The International Center for Transitional Justice in New York. The Court concluded "Because the other three elements identified above (element of the Crime of Genocide, The Events as genocide within the meaning of the Convention, Genocidal intent) the Events viewed collectively, can thus be said to include all of the elements of the crime of genocide as defined in the Convention, and legal scholars as well as historians, politicians, journalist and other people would be justified in continuing to so describe".

My maternal uncle, a student in Smyrna (Izmir) was cold bloodedly slaughtered on September 9, 1922 at the age of 14, for just being Armenian. You should not equate the victims of genocide for those who deny it and grant them immunity, under the guise of freedom of speech. The victory declarations of Pirencek should shed some light. He said Turkey has solved the Armenian Question once and for all.

I hope you shall reconsider your verdict, otherwise your decision shall remain as a stain on your record.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal of the Armenian
Evangelical College of Beirut

31.



Dear Doctor Messerlian,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3 January 2014 relating to the Court's judgment in the case of *Perinçek v. Turkey*.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the judgment is not yet final. Pursuant to Article 43 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the parties may request the referral of the case before the Grand Chamber of the Court within a period of three months from the date of the judgment. For the time being, neither of the parties has requested the referral of the case but they have until 17 March 2014 to do so. Once the judgment becomes final there will be no possibility to appeal.

Yours faithfully,

S. Naismith
Section Registrar

32.



Dr Zaven M. Messerlian
Armenian Evangelical College
P.O. Box 11-3672

Beirut 1107 2140
Lebanon

Berne, 13 February 2014

European Court of Human Rights Judgement
Dear Dr Messerlian,

I write to you in reference to your letter to the President of the Swiss Confederation Didier Burkhalter dated 16 January 2014 and hereby acknowledge receipt on his behalf.

In your letter, you refer to the judgement by the Chamber of the European Court of Humans Rights in the case of *Perinçek v. Switzerland* issued on 17 December 2013. With regard to this case, I can inform you that our competent authority is currently evaluating whether or not it will request that the judgment be referred to the Grand Chamber.

Yours sincerely,

Europe, Central Asia, Council of Europe, OSCE Division
Arthur Mattli
Ambassador

Switzerland decided to appeal to the Supreme Court for a reconsideration of their decision. So did Armenia. Five newly appointed judges examined the appeals and allowed the superior court to reconsider the first Instance Court's decision.

The superior court gave its verdict on October 15, 2015, ending the deliberations which had begun on January 28, 2015.

The court refused Switzerland's reconsideration appeal on the ground that article 10 of the Human Rights agreement were not met. In its decision by a vote of 10 against 7, the court said they are not obliged to define the 1915 massacres and deportations as genocide and they do not have the right to give an appreciation with legal power.

It is true that the court of First Instance had considered the fact of the Armenian Genocide as a historically debatable subject, and against which Armenia had protested. In the superior court of Appeals the majority, 10 judges had considered that they are not obliged to give an appreciation. So there was some improvement on the First Instance verdict, however, *Perinçek's* freedom of speech was recognized.²

33.

Over the years I have written letters to international magazines expressing my protest, or indignation on some articles or actions. My letter to *Newsweek* magazine stating that the Soviet Union had no right to guarantee the territorial integrity of Turkey as Armenians have rightful territorial claims, was published

² "Plus dur qu'en Premiere Instance," *Nouvelles d'Arménie*, November 2015, No 223, p. 25.

in the January 23, 1967 issue. The letter and my explanations have already been published.³

From the many letters I have chosen three emails to *Time* magazine which are successively given below. These were not published in *Time*. A good number of Armenian organizations, personalities and individuals wrote letters of protest and also took actions which led *Time* magazine to agree to the Armenian demands and made amends.

34.

From: "Armenian Evangelical College" <A_E_C@cyberia.net>
To: <letters@time.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 10:43 AM

Dear Editor,

I do not comprehend how an esteemed magazine such as TIME could accept to insert a negationist Turkish DVD in 8 languages under the guise of touristic advertisement. The Armenian Genocide is an established unrefutable fact, cited as the prime example of genocide by the person who used the term genocide for the first time, Raphael Lemkin, it was recognized as a genocide by the United Nations in 1985 and by the European Parliament in 1987. Would TIME have distributed a negationist DVD of the Holocaust? The Genocide perpetrated against the Armenians claimed 1.500.000 lives and nine tenths of our historical homeland was emptied of its native population, who had lived there for the last three millenniums and more.

My maternal uncle a 14 year student in Smyrna, was butchered by Turks on September 8, 1922, while buying bread, just because he was an Armenian.

I condemn the permission you granted for the distribution of the Turkish negationist DVD, for material reasons. You have hurt the feelings of 10 millions Armenians all over the world, many of whom have several victims of genocide in their families. You owe us an apology.

Dr. Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal, Armenian Evangelical
College of Beirut

Author of the book *The Premeditated Nature of the
Genocide Perpetrated on the Armenians.*

35.

Armenian Evangelical College
From: "Armenian EvangelicalCollege" <A_E_C@cyberia.net>
To: <letters@time.com>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2005 12:04 PM

³ Ջաւէն Մարրլեան, «Հայկական պահանջներու մասին Նիւզուիքի 1967ի նամակս եւ հետեանքները» (My letter of 1967 concerning Armenian demands to *Newsweek* and the consequences), *Haigazian Armenological Review*, 2013:33, pp. 351-72.

Dear Editor,

I sent an email dated June 9, 2005 concerning my outrage for the injurious Turkish DVD of falsehoods concerning the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians but I did not get any reply nor an acknowledgement, although my e mail address was indicated. The lukewarm reply of TIME to an Armenian reader's mild comments in his brief letter (June 20, 2005) can not satisfy us. Your ignoring my email added insult to injury.

Let me add that kind words do not compensate for the damage caused by TIME's negligent, insensitive and offensive act. We not only demand a formal apology but the disseminating at TIME's expense of a factual DVD on the Armenian Genocide, in the same seven languages as the Turkish DVD. I could never have imagined that TIME would have joined the negationists. Shame on you.

Dr. Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal, Armenian
Evangelical College of Beirut

36.

Armenian Evangelical College

From: "Armenian Evangelical College" <A_E_C@cyberia.IMnet.ib>

To: <letters@time.com>

Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 1:20 PM

Dear Editor,

TIME is to be congratulated for the wise decision of publishing an ad page and distributing a DVD on the Armenian Genocide, in its issue of February 12, 2007. TIME was duped in 2005 by the Ankara Chamber of Commerce (issue of June 6, 2005) in distributing a supposedly touristic DVD, which in reality was negating the Armenian Genocide "The Murder of a Nation", as the then American Ambassador in Turkey termed the horrendous mass killings and deportations of the Armenians, during 1915-1918. At long last justice has been done by TIME, as I had demanded by my e-mail addressed to you on September 12, 2005. Thanks.

Dr. Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal, Armenian Evangelical College,
author of the book (in English) The Premeditated Nature
of the Genocide Perpetrated on the Armenians.

37.

Throughout the years of my adulthood I have written lots of letters to authors, editors and publishers about mistakes and omissions about Armenian history and particularly the Genocide. Most have replied even rectified their errors. I have given below a selection of such letters and the replies received. A few did not reply or their replies did not reach me during the civil war in Lebanon (1975-1990).

Personal

Neville Gambier, Esq.
Everyman's Encyclopaedia 25 November, 1969.
39-40 St. James's Place
LONDON S.W.1

Dear Sir,

I had access to *Everyman's Encyclopaedia's* No. 11 (ARM-ASC) and had the unpleasant surprise of witnessing therein a blunder, the picture allegedly representing "a small village in Armenia near the borders of Turkey and Persia" and other misrepresentations of historical facts in the text.

The Armenians today number 5.5 millions and except the 2.400.000 living in the Armenian S.S.R. are scattered all over the world. Almost everywhere in the world Armenians are found and it is natural for people to want to know about this ethnic group living amidst them, and contributing so positively to their adopted countries. And should one get a copy of your esteemed publication, surely, he/she will get misled.

We are convinced it's not your intention deliberately to falsify historical facts, and therefore you would welcome any positive criticism.

The picture presented in full-colour on page 321 and the only picture to represent present-day Armenia is not and cannot be taken in the Armenian Republic. The picture represents Turks or Kurds (as they cover their faces and Armenians do not) and a border village in Turkey (judging from the thatched or mud dwellings) near the frontiers of Armenia and Persia. We have enclosed some pictures of present day Armenia for comparison. Let me be honest and say that the picture printed by you is an insult to all Armenians and needs to be remedied by a prompt rectification. We are confident an investigation will lead you to the same conclusion.

As far as the text is concerned, it is on the whole balanced, however, there are many important landmarks in Armenian History and contributions of Armenia to the world civilization which are completely left out.

William E. Gladstone, four times Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who has said "to serve Armenia is to serve civilization", apparently knew all those facts, when he made the now famous quotation.

In the first part entitled Armenia, no mention is made of Tigranes the Great (95-54 B.C.) who challenged the Roman Empire and conquered all the Middle East to the doors of the Sinai desert and reorganized the Armenian pagan religion. No mention is made either to Lesser Armenia, the Independent Armenian Kingdom in Cilicia which lasted from 1085 to 1425 A.D. This Armenian Kingdom played a very important role in the Middle East then. It had close relations with the Mongols of the East and the Europeans in the West. Let me just mention as a historical footnote that the Armenian kings Levon II and Hethoum corresponded with Edward I, II, III and Henry III of England. In fact the Armenian king Levon VI came to London to intervene between the English and the French to put an end to the Hundred Years War. While the last Crusader Principality fell in the Levant in 1291, the Christian Armenian kingdom fell only in 1425 in front of

the invading Turkish forces.⁴ No mention is made also to the policy of the Ottoman Sultan Selim I who by trying to disperse the Armenians envisaged to make the Armenians a minority in their own homeland.

As far as the *Armenian atrocities* section is concerned, the following are to be pointed out.

First, the Armenians had no nihilist parties, but nationalist-socialist parties to which demanded reforms in the Six Armenian populated provinces of Asia Minor after enduring Turkish hardships and injustice. There was no revolt in the part of Armenians, but a suppression in the part of Sultan Abdul Hamid II termed by Europe then the "Red Sultan", "the Great Assassin" for murdering more than 300.000 Armenians. Naturally Armenians managed in certain localities to have self-defence Fedeyan groups. In the great massacres of 1915-18, a veritable genocide, you quote "probably 800.000 people died". The world today acknowledges that at least 1.500.000 Armenians were slaughtered. Let me just quote one statement made by David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister, on October 14, '1922 "... since 1914 the Turks, according to testimony - official testimony - we have received, have slaughtered in cold blood one million and a half Armenians, men, women and children, and five hundred thousand Greeks without any provocation at all."

As far as the Armenian Church is concerned, your article mentions "It became monophysite, but its strongly national character led it to refuse communion even with the other monophysites." The Armenian church is not monophysite in the sense the Catholics believe it is. "The monophysitism which is accepted by the Church of Armenia is identical with the Ephessian formula which is that of St. Cyril," One Nature in the Word Incarnate." In other words in the Incarnation the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ did not preserve their duality but that He is One Indivisible Person, God and Man. Your article also did not mention that Armenia was the first state to accept Christianity as its state religion.

Finally, your description of "Armenians" the last item on "Armenia" is also inaccurate. First of all it contradicts your own statement on page 321 that in 1965 Armenia had a population of 2,134,000. Today there are 5.5 million Armenians in the world. Lebanon has 125,000 Armenians, U.S.A. and Canada 300,000, France 150,000, South America 70,000, the Far East 10,000 etc.

Nothing is written about the Armenian Architecture, whose style is particular and has influenced Gothic Architecture. The views of the Austrian architect Joseph Strzygowski are renowned in this field.

Furthermore, nothing is written in the section dealing with the MSS, on Toros Roslin, who incorporated perspective into his design earlier than the European Renaissance portraitists.

Your contributor makes a serious mistake when he writes "Armenian literature was purely monkish: there was not, any epic or romantic literature."

⁴ Although the Armenian kingdom of Cilicia fell in 1375 to the Mameluke invaders, in certain parts of Cilicia Armenians led by Prince Constantine maintained independence until 1425.

The famous lay epic *David of Sassoun* (published in English as well) is today acclaimed to be a very great work by literary critics. The Armenians were subject to dire persecutions and could not indulge greatly in romantic literature, however, during the Middle Ages there are romantic songs (e.g. Hovhanness of Tlgouran in the 15th century), medical books; (e.g. Mkhitar of Hera), astronomy books (e.g. Anania of Shirag), books on laws (Mkhitar Kosh), many other manuscripts deal with philosophy, mathematics, history, etc.

It is our sincere hope that you will exercise your authority in seeing that the historical facts concerning the above-mentioned subjects are rectified and particularly the offending picture of Turks represented as Armenians removed in a new edition.

Sincerely,

Zaven M. Messerlian, M.A.

Copies: John Clark,
David Girling.

38.



4th December 1969

Zaven M. Messerlian, Esq., M.A.,
Armenian Evangelical College,
P.O. Box 3672,
Beirut,
Lebanon.

Dear Mr. Messerlian,

Thank you for your letter of 25th November. I am sorry that you are disappointed with the entry on Armenia in *Everyman's* - owing, it would seem on the whole, to the fact that space was not available to go into the subject in very great length.

Anyway, I am most grateful to you for your detailed and helpful comments of which I have of course made a note for future reference.

I also heard from your namesake Haig Messerlian, to whom I have written on the subject of the illustration.

With many thanks for your assistance,

Yours sincerely,

(Neville Gambier)
Managing Editor

NG/PL

As the letter of Neville Gambier indicated, my brother Haig Messerlian, had initiated the protests. He followed up the matter very closely and provided pictures of Yerevan. On January 25, 1973 the publishers wrote to him that the picture will be changed. Indeed, *Everyman's Encyclopedia* in vol. 1 of its 11th edition (1974) changed the picture placing a new one (Yerevan's main square and a Khatchkar). Furthermore, some of my comments were taken into consideration, the genocide victims were raised from 800.000 to more than one million, the adjective nihilist was removed in describing Armenian political parties, the epic of Sassountsi David was mentioned, another fact that Armenia was the first state to accept Christianity as its state religion, the number of Armenians in the various countries of the world, etc.⁵

PERSONAL

19 October, 1972.

Gwyn Williams, Esq.,
Faber and Faber
3 Queen Square
London

Dear Sir,

In your recently published book *Eastern Turkey: A Guide and History*, there are some historical misinterpretations concerning the Armenians. The Armenians en masse lived in the region described, from the first millennium B.C. till their forcible ejection during 1916-21, by the Ottoman Turkish government, led by the Ittihad ve Terrake reactionary party.

It is a pity that instead of giving an objective explanation of the non-existence of Armenians today in what was three-fourths of their homeland, you have given the bigoted Turkish viewpoint used as self justification for the genocide perpetrated on the Armenian people. You have presented the victims of the Turkish extermination policy as the chief culprit. As to the veracity of the Ottoman Turkish government's guilt, a checking of the American or British foreign office published or yet unpublished records will suffice. The extermination of Armenians was termed by the Allies as "crimes of Turkey against humanity" (see, *Foreign Relations of the U.S., 1915, Supplement*, p. 981 or The British Foreign office public records where under F.O.371 /2488 it states "In face of these fresh crimes committed by Turkey the allied Governments announce publicly to the Sublime Porte that they will hold all the members of the Ottoman Government, as well as such of their agents as are implicated personally responsible for such massacres."

In a confidential report sent from Ankara as late as in 1944 the British Ambassador Sir H. Knatchbull – Hugessen states to the then Foreign Secretary Mr. Eden among other things the following "Briefly, the non moslem minorities have almost disappeared from

⁵ «Ազգօգուտ գործունէութիւն Ջաւէն եւ Հայկ Մարրիւեան եղբայրներու», *Zartonk daily*, 10 April 1974, p. 3.

Anatolia. The liquidation of the large Armenian communities of the nineteenth century is in the nature of a human tragedy, though the Turks would not for a moment admit that their country has suffered as a result of it. Even so it remains a major blot on the record of the Ottoman Empire, and not of that Empire alone, but on that of the Turkish Republic as well. "(F.O.371/44151).

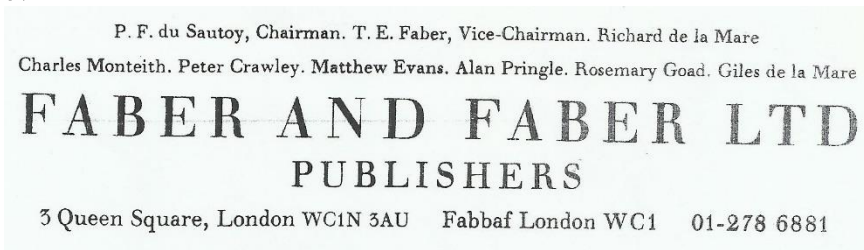
As the late Cardinal Richard Cushing, the former Archbishop of Boston, rightfully wrote in 1965, "there is hardly any person of Armenian descent today, no matter where he lives, who was not represented by some relative on the long list of innocent people who lost their lives during the awful events of 50 years ago. The survivors and descendants have much to live up to and the civilized world at large which seemingly treated the situation with scant compassion, has much to live down. "

Unbiased, purely descriptive and impressionistic articles have appeared on Eastern Turkey such as Charles E. Adelsen's "*Land of Great Ararat: Turkey's forbidden territory*" (*The Geographical Magazine*, December 1969, London, PP. 188-193). We do hope that in a future edition of your work, the facts concerning the Armenians will be rectified or even further that you will mention the destruction of some of the Armenian works of art or architectural relics blown to pieces by the Turks in what is known as Eastern Turkey today as some Western European writers have dared such as the Turcophile Lord Kinross who writes "it is tragic to say the demolition of crosses and of the walls with their frescoes were of recent date " (*Within the Taurus*, London, 1954, P. 121) or Francois Balsan who mentions that his official escort Setke Bey, in his travels in Eastern Turkey told him one day "The elimination of the Armenians was an urgent salutary work. Their very name must no longer have a sense. Their memory, their monuments, their least traces must disappear. It is the order." (*Les Surprises du Kurdistan* edition G. Susse, Paris, 1946 P.69). The report of some English journalists, in Eastern Turkey published in *The Times* of London of 20 and 25 April 1963 also speaks about the general impression of desolation, and abandoning of the architectural treasures to their fates, demolition of churches and the use of its stones for building houses, etc.

We sincerely hope you were misled and will rectify the distortions of the historical facts. Six million Armenians and their countless friends will then be grateful to you.

Zaven M. Messerlian, M.A.

40.



AP/CTR 7 November 1972

The Reverend⁶ Zaven M. Messerlian, M.A.,

⁶ Reverend as an adjective means "worthy of reverence", other than as a noun meaning "member of the clergy."

Armenian Evangelical College,
P.O.B. 3672,
Beirut,
Lebanon.

Reverend Sir,

Thank you for your letter of October 19th and the copy of your letter to Professor Gwyn Williams. I have been in touch with him, and he has asked me to reply to you.

I assume that you are referring to the section called THE ARMENIANS on pages 51-8 of EASTERN TURKEY, and would point out that this is part of a chapter of only 57 pages on the Peoples and Cultures of Eastern Turkey: in relation to the number of pages given to the other 21 subjects over a very great length of time the number of pages is not disproportionate. Thus we are really concerned with what can be said about the Armenians in such a short space, and in one or two references to the modern Armenians in neighbouring sections, apart from the Armenians in Byzantium on pages 71-3 to which I imagine you would not object. You disagree strongly with Professor Williams's historical interpretation of what led up to the massacres, and suggest he should be more specific about the ejection of the Armenians during 1916-21, and the destruction of their cultural monuments.

Professor Williams says, and I think if you read what he has to say objectively you will see, that he sympathizes very much with the Armenians. I think he takes the view that the massacres and expulsions were dreadful but they are only one side of the story. I think if the book is reprinted he will reconsider what he has said and possibly modify it - but only within the limits of space I've referred to.

However, I think you will be much more interested to hear about another book which we've just published, SMYRNA 1922: The Destruction of a City, by Marjorie Housepian, with an introduction by C. M. Woodhouse. It has already been published in the U.S.A. by Harcourt Brace, Jovanovich under the title of THE SMYRNA AFFAIR, and I expect you know all about it; but you will be glad to hear that it will now be reviewed and read by British readers.

Yours faithfully,
[signature illegible]

41.

16/2/1978

Herbert L. Peacock, Esq.,
Heinemann Educational Books Ltd.
48 Charles Street, London W1X 8AH
England

Dear Sir,

The 4th edition of your book *A History of Modern Europe 1789-1970* was brought to me for inspection for possible use in our school.

Harold Pearson replied by a handwritten letter.
 19 Leaside Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N10 3BT
 Telephone 01-887 4342

27 February, 78

Dear Mr Messerlian,

I have just received your letter from my publisher, and I am very grateful to you for having pointed out the omission of reference to the ghastly massacre of your people in 1915.

You will be pleased to know that I had every intention of including the 1915 reference in the next edition of *A History of Modern Europe, 1889-1970*. In another of my modern histories also published recently by Heinemann, there is a full reference to 1915 on p. 120. This is my work *Europe and Beyond, 1870-1974*.

Thank you also for pointing out to me the horrifying remarks of Adolf Hitler.

Yours most sincerely,
 Harold D. Pearson

I wish to make one important remark. Perhaps unintentionally you have left out the genocide perpetrated on the Armenian nation in 1915 from your chapter 16 (The Great War, 1914 - 1918 and the post - war settlement). You have mentioned the earlier massacres of 1894 - 1896 which claimed 300,000 Armenian lives, in the Armenian provinces of Eastern Anatolia and Constantinople. However the holocaust of 1915 - 1918 the "final solution" the Ottoman Turkish government gave to the Armenian Question, claimed 1.5 million Armenian victims. This was a genocide perpetrated by the Young Turkish authorities against its, on the whole, defenseless, Armenian subjects. The Young Turkish triumverate

Tala'at-Enver-Behaeddin Shakir ordered the massacre of Armenians. Two - thirds of the Armenians, were slaughtered. The survivors were deported. Above all Western Armenia was emptied of its native people and the 3500 years old homeland of Armenia was occupied for good. The mass murder of the Turkish government was termed by the Allies as "crimes against humanity" (F.O. 371 / 2488).

Arnold Toynbee's *The Treatment of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire* Henry Morenthau's (The U.S. ambassador in Turkey during World War I) *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* are best known sources. A recent source is *History of the First World War* (edited by Peter Young, Vol 3, No. 16, London 1970, BPC Publishing Ltd). In my opinion there is place in your book for the mention of the genocide of 1915 either in the paragraph entitled *The Eastern Front, The Year 1916, The Dardanelles and Gallipoli, The years 1915-1916*. It should be remembered that all the eminent and influential Armenian leaders of Constantinople were arrested on the eve of the Gallipoli attack in April 24, 1915. Out of the 870 leaders 8 only survived the massacres.

The oblivion of the facts concerning the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians encouraged no other person than Adolph Hitler, who few days before the German invasion of Poland on August 22, 1939 in Obersalzbourg, declared to his generals "After all, who remembers today the extermination of the Armenians." (Shirmer David, *World War One London, 1973, Ch. 8. P. 136*).

The holocaust of the European Jews and other peoples followed.

History books should not leave out such important facts. Future genocides should be prevented, and this can come by the full awareness of past facts.

I sincerely hope that you will add these points in case a new edition is printed.

Zaven M. Messerlian
 Principal

42.

Herbert Peacock replied by a handwritten letter.

27 January, '78

Dear Mr. Messerlian,

I have just received your letter from my publishers, and I am very grateful to you for having pointed me the omission of reference to the ghastly massacres of your people in 1915.

You will be pleased to know that I had every intention of including the 1915 reference in the next edition of "A History of Modern Europe, 1789-1970". In another of my modern histories also published recently by Heinemann, there is a full reference to 1915 on p. 120. This is my work "Europe and Beyond, 1870-1976".

Thank you also for pointing out to me the horrifying remarks of Adolf Hitler.

Yours most sincerely,

Herbert L. Peacock

43.

Herbert Peacock, as he stated in his letter, in the 1979 publication of his reprinted book *Europe and Beyond (1870-1978)* in the chapter devoted to World War I, devoted pp. 120-21 to the "systematic annihilation" of the Armenian people, saying half of its entire number perished, avoiding the term Genocide. However, in a subsequent reprinting of his book which was used as a textbook for London University's G.C.E. examinations, he had removed the entire section of the 1915 massacres, though retaining the paragraphs on p. 27 and 91, about the Armenian massacres of 1894-1896. Apparently there was strong Turkish official pressure to delete the 1915 episode. My second letter, dated March 5, 1983 remained without a reply.

Herbert L. Peacock, M.A.
19 Leaside Avenue, Muswe II Hill
London, N10 3BT
England

Dear Mr. Peacock,

Just recently our school ordered an inspection copy of your *A History of Modern Europe, 1789 - 1981*, the seventh edition, 1982. We regretfully noted that the same omission that we had noticed and written to you in detail in our letter of 10 February 1978, still persists. In your kind reply to our letter on 27 February 1978 you had informed us that "you had every intention of including the 1915 reference (of the ghastly massacre of the Armenian people) in the next edition of your book."

We cannot understand how a history textbook can leave out the first genocide of the 20th century out of its contents. More than two-thirds of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire and half of the totality of the Armenians of the world perished by most atrocious means in 1915. By the very confession of Adolf Hitler the oblivion cast upon the annihilation of Armenians, encouraged him to start the holocaust of the Second World War. History is not only to impart knowledge of facts of chief happenings, but also to

built moral values, respect of human dignity and rights of existence, self determination, etc. etc.

We are sure you are aware of the existence of Christopher Walker's *Armenia the Survival of a Nation*, Croom Helm publishers, London, 1980, which devotes pp. 197-240 to *The Death of Turkish Armenia*. We are also confident you are aware that the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians was exposed by the British in the *Blue Book* entitled *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915- 1916* in London 1916, and the documents were presented to Viscount Grey of Fallodon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Viscount Bryce.

The final usurpation of our 3500 years old homeland and the cold-blooded mass-murder of 1.5 million Armenians, surely can take one paragraph, somewhere on p. 285-56 of your book. We are indeed disappointed but still hope you will include what you intended to, in the next edition.

Yours sincerely,
Zaven M. Messerlian, M.A., FIBA⁷
Principal

c.c. Heinemann Educational Books Ltd.

44.

March 23, 1979

Personal

The Editors
Swiss Air Gazette
CH-8001
Zurich, Switzerland

Sirs,

It is with indignation that we became aware that in your November 1978 issue devoted to Turkey you had overlooked the fact that until its final occupation, and voiding of its people by deportations and genocide, the north eastern part of that country was the 3500 years old homeland of the Armenians. This area still is rich by its Armenian architectural and other vestiges (such as Ani, the city of 1001 churches, or Aghtamar in Lake Van, or the church of the St. Apostles in Kars (now a Museum) etc.) and is found in the geographical area known as the Armenian Plateau.

Erasing it on the map is to be an accomplice to the Turkish attempts of appropriating with the land, its vestiges.

⁷ FIBA were the initials of Fellow of the International Biographical Association, UK, to which I was elected on December 15, 1982.

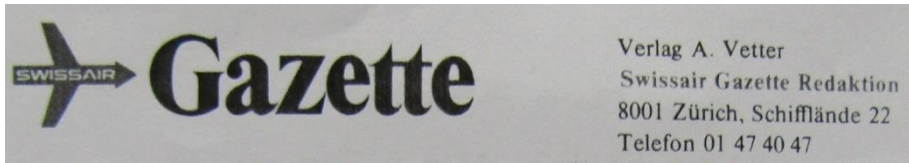
It is doubly regrettable that this is done by a Swiss company, since the Swiss people were among those who condemned most vigorously the genocide of our people and the usurpation of its homeland. (See the enclosed *Appel*⁸ by Swiss personalities in 1915).

No one denies your right of commercial advertisement, but historical accuracy must be respected.

Sincerely,
Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal

ZMM/ss

45.



April 23, 1979

Armenian Evangelical College
Mr. Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal
P.O. B. 3672
Beirut / Lebanon

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March which unfortunately reached me only today.

We are very sorry to have given offense to your people in our issue on Turkey. Normally we avoid as much as possible making political statements in our coverage of various countries. However, such statements sometimes appear inadvertently in connection with the cultural and historical aspects of our reporting. This was the case with the issue on Turkey. We are most sorry, and we fully understand your indignation.

Please accept our sincere apology and be assured that this incidence will not be repeated.

Sincerely yours,

SWISSAIR GAZETTE
Verlag A. Vetter
(Lydia Lehmann)

46.

November 1, 1990

The Hamlyn Publishing Group Limited

⁸ See the Appel (Appeal) in my article "Efforts Towards the Recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Swiss Parliament," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, 2014:34, pp. 380-81.

Michelin House,
81 Fulham Road
London SW3 6RB
Subject: Your publication, *The 20th century, The Pictorial
History*, chief contributor Neil Wenborn

Dear Sirs,

We bought the above mentioned book for our Library for the perusal of our students. It is a very interesting and well prepared, commendable book.

However we wish to register our protest for the oversight and minimisation of the first genocide of the 20th century, the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians, 1915-1918.

You have wrongly put under the chronology of 1913, April 24, "Muslims Massacre Armenians in Central Asia". This is an erroneous oversimplification. Armenians commemorate every April 24, the genocide which began in 1915, not for religious but political reasons. In fact it was the Arab Muslims who gave asylum and shelter to the survivors of the genocide. The genocide was perpetrated not in Central Asia but in the Ottoman Empire by the orders of the Ottoman Turkish government. More than two thirds of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire and half of the totality of the Armenians of the world perished by most atrocious means during 1915-1918. By the very confession of Adolph Hitler the oblivion cast upon the annihilation of the Armenians, encouraged him to start the holocaust of the Second World War (Shirmer David, *World War I*, London, 1973, ch. 8, p. 136). We are confident you are aware that the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians was exposed by the British in the *Blue Book* entitled *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916*, in London 1916, and the documents were presented to Viscount Grey of Falladen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Viscount Bryce. At least one picture could have been also published. The mass murder of 1.5 million people can't be overlooked, when the lesser massacre of 30.000 Armenians in 1909 is mentioned on page 42. If you need I can provide some actual photographs. We hope that in a new updated edition of your pictorial history the genocide perpetrated on Armenians will be given rightful place.

Sincerely,
Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal

47.



18 December 1990

Zaven M Messerlian
Principal

Armenian Evangelical College
PO Box 3672
Beirut
Lebanon

Dear Zaven Messerlian

Thank you for your letter of 1 November drawing our attention to errors in *The 20th Century Pictorial History*.

We have recently reprinted the book with alterations to dates and facts regarding the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians. Unfortunately we were only able to make minor alterations to existing pages and had not included a photograph as well. However, we will keep your letter on file and suggest that in any further reprints greater coverage of this subject is included if possible.

I hope the changes that we have already made will be satisfactory to you.

Yours sincerely
Carolyn Pyrah
Reference Division

48.

March 12, 1991

Chronicle Publications Inc., Suite 3 11
105 South Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, N.Y. 10549
U.S.A.

Subject: Your publication, *Chronicle of the World* (editor in chief Derrick Mercer).

Dear Sirs,

We bought the above mentioned book for our Library for the perusal of our students. It is a very interesting and well prepared, commendable book.

However we wish to register our protest for the oversight of the first genocide of the 20th century, the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians in 1915-1918.

Whilst the massacres of 1895-1896 (Turks kill Armenians, p , 1017), with its 200.000 victims, and the massacre of 23 April 1909, with its 30.000 victims (1909 chronology, p. 1041) are mentioned, the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians during 1915-1918, which resulted in the martyrdom of 1.5 million Armenians, i.e. two thirds of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire and half of the totality of the Armenians of the world is not mentioned at all, where it should have been given its rightful place (pp. 1062 - 1063). Not only 1.5 million Armenians were annihilated, but their ancestral home land was emptied of its native inhabitants. Your other noteworthy publication *Chronicle of the 20th Century* (editor Clifton Daniel), gave ample place, on page 196, to the beginning of the genocide under the title "Turks Slaughter Thousands of Armenians".

This should have been also the case in the *Chronicle of the World*, under April 24, 1915, the beginning of genocide.

By the very confession of Adolph Hitler the oblivion cast upon the annihilation of Armenians, encouraged him to start the holocaust of the Second World War (Shirmer David, *World War I*, London, 1973, ch. 8, p. 136). We are confident you are aware that the genocide perpetrated on the Armenians was exposed by the British in the *Blue Book* entitled *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916*, in London 1916, and the documents were presented to Viscount Grey of Falladon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Viscount Bryce.

We hope that in a new updated edition of your *Chronicle of the World* the genocide perpetrated on Armenians will be given its rightful place, with pictures.

Sincerely,
Zaven M. Messerlian
Principal

49.

January 12, 2002

The Editors
Marshall Editions Ltd.
The Orangery
161 New Bond Street
London W1 S 2UF
England, U.K.

Dear Ladies/Sirs,

As a historian, author and educator, I was disappointed, to say the least, when I noticed that the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians in 1915 was not given even a mention in your otherwise noteworthy publication *The History of our Modern World from 1900 to the present day*.

Although the Gallipoli dead are mentioned (pp. 34-35) and the Holocaust is given its rightful place (pp. 154-55), the Final solution to the Armenian Question by genocide is left out. The Genocide lasted from 1915 to 1923 and cost the lives of 1.500.000 Armenians, 50% of the world's Armenians and the final appropriation of the 3000 years old Armenian homeland, and the dispersal of the survivors all around the world, and was termed by the United Nations report as "the first case of genocide in the twentieth century" (E./CN. 4/Sub.2/L.583) and officially recognized as a Genocide in a final report in 1985. (E./CN.4/Sub.21985/6).

There is a relation between Gallipoli, the Holocaust and the Genocide of Armenians. Gallipoli- The British attack and subsequent failure at Gallipoli were detrimental to the Armenians. Lord Kinross, author of *Ataturk* and four books on Turkey, has written "The British failure at Gallipoli gave a breathing space to the Young Turk triumverate, leaving it free to pursue; without external interference, a premeditated internal policy for the final elimination of the Armenian race. Their proximity to the Russians on the Caucasian front furnished a convenient pretext for their persecution on a scale far exceeding the atrocities of Abdul Hamid, through deportation and massacre of one million Armenians,

more than half of whom perished". (Lord Kinross, *The Ottoman Centuries, The Rise and Fall of the Turkish Empire*, New York 1977, p. 607). In fact more than 1 1/2 million Armenians were massacred and their homeland was emptied of its natives.

Indeed on the eve of the Gallipoli campaign, on April 24, 1915, all the eminent and influential Armenian leaders of Constantinople, including journalists, professors, clergymen, lawyers, poets, composers, physicians etc., in short the intelligentsia were arrested by the Ottoman Turkish authorities without any sound reason and they were sent to Anatolia where they were ruthlessly murdered. Thus began the genocide of the Armenians and continued, with some interruptions, until 1923.

The Holocaust- The oblivion of the Genocide of Armenians encouraged Adolph Hitler in committing the Holocaust. Hitler's phrase "After all who remembers today the extermination of Armenians" when he gave orders to annihilate countless innocents in Obersalzberg on August 21, 1939 is well documented. Within three days on 25 August 1939, a short account of the speech, smuggled out of the meeting, was transmitted to the British government by the British Embassy in Berlin (*Documents of British Foreign Policy 1919-1939*, edited by E. L. Woodward and Rohan Butler, Third Series, vol. VIII, 1939, (London 1945), p. 257-260 also Shirmer, David, *World War I*, London 1973, ch. 8, p. 136). The same document was made public in the U.S.A. on 17 October 1942 and *The New York Times* reported the story and excerpts from the document on the following day. In the summer of 1945 the document was in the possession of the prosecution of Nuremberg.

The Polish Jew author Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term genocide and who is commonly regarded as the father of the Genocide Convention, frequently invoked the Armenian experience as an example of genocide. *The History of the Holocaust, a handbook and dictionary* (ed. Abraham J. Edelheit and Hershel Edelheit, San Francisco, Oxford, 1994) clearly states "World War I also witnessed the first modern act of genocide" (p. 16), referring to the Armenian Genocide.

I want to express my protest for this exclusion; apparently done for political reasons and base my objections other than the above, on the following points:-

a) The Armenian genocide was termed as "Crimes against humanity" in 1915, in an Allied (including the British) warning to the Ottoman government on May 24, 1915. This Allied warning and Article 230 of the Treaty of Sevres, constituted the legal basis of articles 6 (c) and 5 (c) of the Nuremberg and Tokyo charters for trying the World War II criminals (see UN restricted document E/CN.E/W.20 and F.O. 3/172810).

a) The genocide perpetrated on the Armenians was exposed to the world, essentially by the British *Blue Book, The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire* (Miscellaneous No. 31, (1916). The genocide was successful in that there are no Armenians left on the Armenian Plateau, our ancestral home for three millenniums. The native Armenians were either massacred, starved to death, burnt alive, and deported. Former British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, wrote: "In 1915, the Turkish government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous general massacre and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor. .. the clearance of the race from Asia

Minor was about as complete as such an act, on a scale so great, could well be... There is no reasonable doubt that the crime was planned and executed for political reasons." (W. Churchill, *The World Crisis: The Aftermath*, (London, 1929), p. 405).

b) The Ottoman Turkish government officially promulgated the Deportation Law on May 26, 1915, after the massacres had already begun and continued after the above law. British intelligence found out from an Ottoman prisoner of war, Lt. Sayied Ahmed Moukhtar Ba'aj, that "deportation" meant "massacre" (F.O. 371/12781/264888 Secret Arabian Report of the Foreign Office, dated December 27, 1916).

In a letter dated October 3, 1918, and addressed to Lord Bryce, Robert Cecil, British Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs wrote: "The Ottoman Armenians were systematically murdered by the Turkish Government in 1915. Two-thirds of the population were exterminated by the most cold blooded and fiendish methods ... "

c) Even the ambassadors of the war time allies of the Ottoman Empire, Imperial Germany and the Austria-Hungarian Empire sent secret reports respectively to Berlin and Vienna clearly stating the terrible premeditated plan of the extermination of a subject people of the Ottoman Empire. Below is such a report by Ambassador Hohenlohe "The systematic butchery of the uprooted and deported Armenians have assumed such a scope ... It wasn't only tolerated but openly promoted by the government. It meant the extermination of the Armenians" (Die Ausrottung der Armenier) *Turkei* 183/38, A 24507, 12 August 1915). The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador Pallavicini, informed Vienna, "The Armenian population which is being expelled from its homeland is not only being subjected to the greatest misery but also to a total extermination" (12 *Turkei*/209/, No. 50/P.C. 27 June 1915).

I understand that your publication is written in journalistic manner, reporting events of famous events on specific dates. The Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians, has a beginning date, it is April 24, 1915. The voluminous *Chronicle of the 20th Century* (editor Clifton Daniel) gave ample place on page 196, to the beginning of the genocide under the title "Turks Slaughter thousands of Armenians", your publication also, should, in our opinion, have given, place to the Genocide of Armenians. My maternal uncle was one of the victims, slaughtered at the age of 14.

I ask, you Ladies and Gentlemen, how can the well documented genocide perpetrated on the Armenians be left out from your book. In my opinion, the Armenian Genocide, for the above historical, legal and moral considerations, should be included in your book. Political considerations should not overrule historical accuracy. Future genocides should be prevented and this can come by the full awareness of past genocides, especially those of the 20th century. One can only hope for a brighter future of humanity by accepting, recognizing and condemning past genocides, not ignoring "the first genocide in the twentieth century".

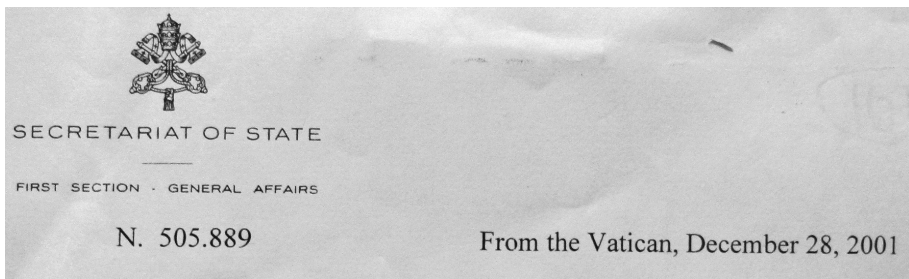
I hope you can reconsider to have the Genocide perpetrated on the Armenians mentioned in forthcoming new editions of your otherwise well planned book.

Zaven M. Messerlian, M.A.
Principal

50.

I have always dispatched my books written in English or translated to English to a select group of statesmen or politicians and spiritual leaders. Most have sent thank you letters, some personally. I am below giving only three such letters.

The book I had sent to the Pope John Paul II care of the Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses-Bedros XIX (who in turn handed it to the Papal Representative in Lebanon for dispatching to Vatican) was *The Premeditated Nature of the Genocide Perpetrated on the Armenians*, while the 4 books were the *Three Treaties Alexandropol, Moscow and Kars Treaties (1920-21)*, *Before and after the Armenian Genocide*, *The Foreign Policy of the United States of America and the Armenian Question 1900-2010* and *The Evolution of the Armenian Question 1939-2010*.



Dear Mr. Messerlian,

I am writing at the direction of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to acknowledge the inscribed copy of your book which you sent to him through the good offices of the Papal Representative in Beirut.

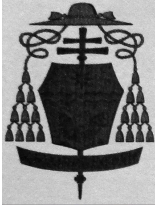
As we begin this new year, I have the honor to assure you of a remembrance in His Holiness's prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Monsignor Pedro Lopez Quintana
Assessor

Mr. Zaven Messerlian
P.O. Box 129
Beirut

51.



Harissa, le 13 Octobre 2016

Cher Prof. Zaven,⁹

Je viens de recevoir les quatre volumes sur l'évolution de la question arménienne. Je vous remercie pour ce travail qui permet de connaître et comprendre mieux le drame qui s' est passé il y a un siècle pour le peuple arménien.

En vous souhaitant tout le bien, veuillez agréer l'expression de mes meilleurs sentiments.

[signed] Gabriel Cacia

52.



January 19, 2017

Dr. Zaven Messerlian
P.O. Box 11-0129
Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107-2020
LEBANON

Dear Dr. Messerlian:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of a package containing four of your books. I regret the delay in replying.

⁹ I had participated to a symposium organized by the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate's clergy in Bzommar on February 14, 2015. The lecturers were presenting excellent historical presentations on the particular topics they were given. After some time the Papal Nuncio Gabriel Cacia, requested someone to give the bare facts of the Armenian Genocide. I volunteered and spoke for 12-15 minutes. Later at the interval the Nuncio thanked me and we had a brief conversation with each other and hence the more personal approach in his letter.

Thank you for sharing your work with the Prime Minister. I know that he is very grateful for the many expressions of goodwill that he receives from our friends overseas. Your books have been reviewed with interest.

Once again, thank you for your thoughtful gesture. Yours sincerely,

M. Bredeson
Executive Correspondence Officer

**Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան առնչութեամբ նամակներ՝ բարձրաստիճան
անձնաւորութեանց եւ հրատարակչատուներու եւ անոնց պատասխանները
(Բ. մաս)
(Ամփոփում)**

Զաւէն Մարրլեան

Հեղինակը՝ Պէրրուֆի Ամերիկեան Համալսարանէն Մագիստրոս Արուեստից վկայականը ստանալէն ետք, գիրքերու, պարբերականներու եւ օտար մամուլին մէջ Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան եւ հայկական հարցերու մասին ակամայ թէ դիտում-նաւոր թերի թէ սխալ տեղեկութիւններու հակազդող նամակներու շարք մը յղած է անոնց: Ան նաեւ նախաձեռնած է նամակներ գրելու պետական անձնաւորութեանց ու մարմիններու, որոնցմէ ոմանք պատասխանած են, ուրիշներ՝ ոչ:

Այստեղ կը հրատարակուի այդ նամակներէն եւ անոնց պատասխաններէն փունջ մը, որոնց կցուած են անհրաժեշտ բացատրութիւններ:

Հայկազեան Հայագիտական Հանդէսը նախապէս (ԺԱ, ԻԲ, եւ ԻԶ հատորներ) հրատարակած է նման հրապարակումներ նոյն հեղինակէն: Ասոնք կու գան ամբողջացնելու այդ նամականին:

ՀՀՀ 42/1ով տրուած էր այս յօդուածին առաջին մասը՝ 22 փաստաթուղթերով: Այս մասով կը տրուի 31 փաստաթուղթ: